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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

Applicant: Patricia Preikschat et al.
Serial No.: 09/171,558 Art Unit: 1775
Filed: March 29, 1999
Title: CHROMIUM(VI)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT
Docket No.: 31716

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Non-Fee Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please further amend without prejudice the application prior to its examination as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 1 insert centered --Description--;

after line 2 delete "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention";

lines 4-5 after "layers" insert --according to claim 1--;

lines 5-6 change ", and a passivation solution." into --according to claim 7, a concentrate according to claim 10, a passivation--;

lines 6-8 before "bath" delete "solution"; and after line 8, restore whatever material was deleted, if any, via the Preliminary Amendment dated March 24, 1999, and delete "Description of the Background".

Page 5, lines 16 and 30 change "US 4,384,902" into --US 43 84 902--;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

John P. Murtaugh
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date _____ Signature of Attorney _____